

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 961

Encouraging the establishment of programs to increase public awareness
of vision disorders in children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. BONNER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. SHAW, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Encouraging the establishment of programs to increase
public awareness of vision disorders in children.

Whereas there is a need to enhance national awareness and
to educate the public and health care providers about vi-
sion disorders in children;

Whereas millions of children in the United States suffer from
vision problems, and many cases go undetected;

Whereas there is no recent nationwide study to accurately de-
termine the percentage of United States children who
have particular vision problems;

Whereas there is a need for the establishment of national standards or guidelines to further encourage early identification and treatment of vision problems in children, from birth to age 18;

Whereas 80 percent of individual learning is through the visual processing of information;

Whereas vision impairment affects how a child experiences and functions in the world;

Whereas children with vision problems struggle throughout their developmental and school years with resulting physical, emotional, and social consequences;

Whereas some health care and educational systems are not effectively detecting children's vision problems due to a lack of, or inadequate, vision screenings and comprehensive eye examinations in those systems;

Whereas common vision problems in children include refractive errors, amblyopia, strabismus, ocular trauma, and infections;

Whereas rare but sight-threatening and life-threatening vision problems include retinoblastoma (a malignant tumor that usually appears in the first 3 years of age), infantile cataracts, congenital glaucoma, and genetic or metabolic diseases of the eye; and

Whereas the costs to society and government is enormous from not detecting, evaluating, and treating early on the vision problems in children: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives that programs should be established—

1 (1) to increase public awareness about the prev-
2 alence and devastating consequences of vision dis-
3 orders in children; and

4 (2) to educate the public and health care pro-
5 viders about—

6 (A) the warning signs and symptoms of oc-
7 ular and vision disorders and the benefits of
8 early detection, evaluation, and treatment; and

9 (B) the importance of early and regular vi-
10 sion screening and comprehensive eye exams to
11 detect vision disorders that may not be readily
12 apparent.

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